

The Oval

Volume 3 | Issue 1

Article 2

2010

Cover, Sponsors, Subscription Information, Letter from the Editor, Staff List, and Table of Contents

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(2010) "Cover, Sponsors, Subscription Information, Letter from the Editor, Staff List, and Table of Contents," *The Oval*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 2.

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OVAL

VOLUME III



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the university of montana

VOLUME III
2010

Oval undergraduate literary arts journal

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ISBN 978-0-9816176-7-1
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The Oval is a literary magazine published annually by the Associated Students of The University of Montana (ASUM), the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and the Creative Writing Program of The University of Montana English Department. Each volume is printed with vegetable ink on recycled paper by The University of Montana Printing & Graphics.

The University of Montana Bookstore, Fact & Fiction, Shakespeare and Company, and The Book Exchange in Missoula, Montana sell copies of *The Oval*. Griz-card holders can buy a copy for \$5.00 and the standard price is \$8.00.

The Oval cosponsors monthly readings with the University Center Student Involvement team called "Prose and Poems" on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the University Center Art Gallery.

The Oval cosponsors annual readings with the literary magazine Aerie Big Sky every spring: usually a general reading and poetry slam.

The Council of Literary Magazines and Presses' (CLMP) Literary Press and Magazine Directory and NewPages.com's index of Literary Magazine include *The Oval*

Oval Magazine
The University of Montana
The University Center, Student Organization Suite 201 K
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www.umt.edu/theoval

submissions

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The Oval accepts electronic submissions of
fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and visual art from

September 1 through February 15.

Only previously unpublished work by currently enrolled

University of Montana undergraduates will be
considered. Submissions must be in RTF, JPEG, or TIFF
format and their genre (essay, short story)
must be defined.



Dear reader,

College has its own culture, jargon, and rituals much like a country. We only live in this country for four years, but when we want to revisit, we do not have yearbooks, nor can we keep every weekly *Kaimin* newspaper. *The Oval*, a literary magazine with stories, visual art, and poetry captures themes, emotions, and memories experienced at college that a record-book cannot. In the third edition of *The Oval*, we hear a variety of voices speaking of unique experiences, but they all come from the same country—they're University of Montana undergraduates.

In fall 2007, the founders of *The Oval* named it after the grass-filled open space at the center of the University of Montana campus, because it's the locus where thousands of students of all disciplines cross, and this spring, the Oval will mark the spot students graduate. I hope that *The Oval* becomes an increasingly cross-disciplinary journal in the years to come, and I also hope that it resonates with UM graduates eager to remember their four-year vacation at UM.

Thank you to Dean Bonnie Allen and Sue Samson of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, and ASUM for their generous financial support allowing us to publish *The Oval* and co-sponsor *Prose and Poems* readings.

A personal thank you to *The Oval*'s faculty advisor, Robert Stubblefield, my favorite professor at UM both in the six classes I've taken with him and in my three years working with him on *The Oval* staff.

Further thanks are extended to the University Center Student Involvement team: Josh Peters-McBride, Derek Johndrow, and Samantha Guenther.

Finally, thank you to all *The Oval* staff and contributors—this is your book and your voice!

— Samantha Steven,
Editor-in-Chief

staff

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table of contents

Prose

DIGGING IN OCTOBER (FICTION) // Ryan Landolfi	13
UGALI BORA (NONFICTION) // Joshua Kieser	23
SHADES OF BLUE (FICTION) // Claire Mikeson	27
INTERIOR DECORATING (NONFICTION) // Paige Tresidder	34
THE BEST POLICY (NONFICTION) // Bryanny Froehlich	37
FRESH EARS (FICTION) // Rachel Rawn	46

Visual Art

SUNSET BUS (COVER) // Tiana Jenson	
STAGECOACH // Sean Leary	55
UNTITLED // Jaysen Tinker	56
PARKING LOT NIGHTLIGHT // Matthew S. Riley	57
BLACK SPIKES // Matthew S. Riley	58
SOFIA // Kevin Wright	59
TO LOVE AN ARTIST // Kaitlin Perrodin	60
FEELING SMALL // Amanda Opitz	61
BA SADI // Kaitlin Perrodin	62
FELIX'S KITE STORE // Kylie Campbell	63
EASTER ISLAND // Charnay Murphy	64
COMMODE BY THE ROAD // Amanda Opitz	65
LUTION MONSTERS // Kylie Campbell	66
MADDOCK'S MERMAID // Jenny Gessaman	67

Poetry

ALGEBRA APPLIED // Charnay Murphy	71
EXPOSURE // Chloe Haagen	72
OCTOBER // Kristi Gilleon	73
TOLERANCE // Kevin Sheetz	74
SANDCASTLES // Kevin Sheetz	75
IT IS ALWAYS RAINING IN PARIS // Kevin Sheetz	76
ODOMETER // Rachel Smith	77
ALWAYS TREAT ROBOTS WITH RESPECT // Sally Finneran	78
EXCERPT FROM "A DAILY CONSCIOUSNESS" // Ryan Landolfi	80
THE TOWN AND ITS RELIGION // Jacob Kahn	81
COCHLEA // Alyssa Terry	83
FINE // Aubry Nicholson	84
ORIGINALITY CALLS // Aubry Nicholson	85
ASPEN // Dan Droughton	87
SULLIVAN COUNTY // Troy Smith	88
GOD BLESS THE DIESEL ENGINE // Troy Smith	89